



# കേരള ഗസറ്റ് KERALA GAZETTE

## അസാധാരണം EXTRAORDINARY

ആധികാരികമായി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്  
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Thiruvananthapuram,  
Wednesday

2025 സെപ്റ്റംബർ 17  
17th September 2025

1201 കന്നി 1  
1st Kanni 1201

1947 ഭാദ്രം 26  
26th Bhadra 1947

നമ്പർ  
No.

3314

### GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

#### Home (C) Department

#### NOTIFICATION

G. O. (Ms) No. 173/2025/Home.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram,

S. R. O. No. 1055/2025

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Kanni, 1201

26<sup>th</sup> Bhadra, 1947.

As per directions of the Union Government vide letter D.O.No.1/4/2025-ICJS(W-S-IV)/1147 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 and in consultation with the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala and in consonance with the model guidelines issued by the Central Government, the Government of Kerala hereby issue the following Rules, namely:-



## e-Sakshya Management Rules

1. *Short title and commencement.*-(1)These rules may be called the eSakshya Management Rules, 2025.

(2). They shall come into force at once.

2. (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

(a) "Authenticated Digital Recording or "Sakshya" means and includes any audio-video recording or photographic material collected or documented through the eSakshya Mobile Application or any other digital platform as may be approved by the State Government, which automatically generates a secure eSakshya Packet containing a unique digital identification number (SID), opening and closing timestamps, geo-location metadata, with a unique hash value to ensure integrity, and which is stored in immutable storage.

(b) "Court software" means a system software, used by the courts in the District Judiciary or the High Courts, as specified by the High Court, for the case management, collection of data, execution of instructions or such other functions and includes, Case Information System (CIS), Case Management System (CMS), District Court Case Management System (DCMS), 24\*7 OnCourts, and Virtual Courts;

(c) "e-Sakshya Packet" means a secure digital file automatically generated by the e-Sakshya Mobile Application or any other digital platform or application as may be approved by the State Government from time to time, at the time of recording of materials, containing the recorded content along with metadata including a unique SID, opening and closing timestamps, geo-location, and a unique hash value to ensure integrity and stored in immutable storage;

(d) "e-Sign" means authentication of any electronic record by means of the electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) and includes authentication by electronic signature or digital signature or such other means of authentication as the High Court may prescribe;

(e) "High Court" means the High Court of Kerala;

(f) "Interoperability Software" means any software for transfer of information among various pillars of the criminal justice system, such as the investigating agencies, courts, correctional homes, forensic laboratories, prosecution or any other stakeholder as notified by



the central government and includes Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS);

(g) "Investigating Officer" means any police officer or any other person authorized by a competent authority or empowered to undertake investigation for any offence and shall include any subordinate of such police officer or public servant not below the rank of Civil Police Officer authorised to record Sakshya;

(h) "Investigation agency software" means a system software, used by the Police or other investigating agencies, as specified by the Central Government or the State Government and notified to the High Court, for the collection of data and execution of instructions and includes Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS);

(i) "Sakshya ID" or "SID" means the unique digital identification number assigned at the time of recording of materials through the Mobile Application or any other digital platform or application as may be approved by the State Government from time to time, which identifies and authenticates the corresponding eSakshya Packet along with its associated metadata, including time and location;

(j) "Sanhita" means the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023);

(2) Words and expressions used, but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023); "the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023); the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, (47 of 2023), the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) and Criminal Rules of Practice or allied Rules promulgated by the High Court or the State or Central Government in exercise of the powers under the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

### 3. Role, responsibility and duties of Investigating Officer:

(1) Every Investigating Officer shall record Authenticated Digital Recordings or Sakshya through the eSakshya Mobile Application or any other digital platform or application as may be approved by the State Government from time to time.

(2) The Investigating Officer shall link the SID with the corresponding FIR number or General Diary (GD) number generated through the Investigation Agency Software.

(3) The Sakshya uploaded to the immutable storage shall be sent or forwarded to the magistrate through the interoperability software as required under section 105 and 185 of the Sanhita.



(4) It shall be the duty of the Investigating Officer;

(a) to generate the certificate required under clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 63 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023), through the eSakshya Mobile Application or any other digital platform or application as may be approved by the State Government from time to time or prepare the same physically where there is no facility to prepare the certificate automatically and to complete Part A of the certificate;

(b) to ensure that Part B of the certificate under clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 63 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023) is duly completed by an expert as required;

(c) to ensure that the certificate is either physically signed or eSigned by the persons mentioned therein and;

(d) to forward the completed certificate to the court without delay.

(5) The investigating officer shall intimate the court, electronically or otherwise, that the Authenticated Digital Recordings or Sakshya had been uploaded to immutable storage, by way of a memorandum immediately on such uploading.

#### 4. Role, responsibility and duties of the court:

(1) Where the Court is satisfied that it is necessary in the interest of justice, it may permit a copy of the Authenticated Digital Recordings or Sakshya or to be furnished to the accused and to the victim, if represented by an advocate, subject to such conditions as it may deem fit, and in accordance with the provisions of section 230 of this Sanhita.

(2) The court may access and view the Authenticated Digital Recordings or Sakshya through the court software.

(3) On completion of the proceedings, including appeal, the eSakshya packet will be safely stored and marked as archived, so that it will be preserved for record but cannot be changed or edited.

#### 5. General Provisions:

(1) Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to limit the power of the Courts to view the Sakshya by the Court.

(2) These rules shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of any other law or rules for



time being in force for accepting and managing Sakshya by the Court in terms of the provisions of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023).

By order of the Governor,  
BISHWANATH SINHA,  
*Additional Chief Secretary to Government.*

